

CARIBBEAN DROUGHT BULLETIN

March 2019 | Volume V | ISSUE 10

Announcement

A weak El Niño currently exists, contributing to the continued drier than normal conditions in January, 2019, particularly in the east and south of the region. Short term drought that impacts soil moisture and surface water resources is already being felt in some countries, and there is the likelihood for long term drought, that can impact groundwater, large rivers and reservoirs, to evolve by May 2019.

Month at a Glance

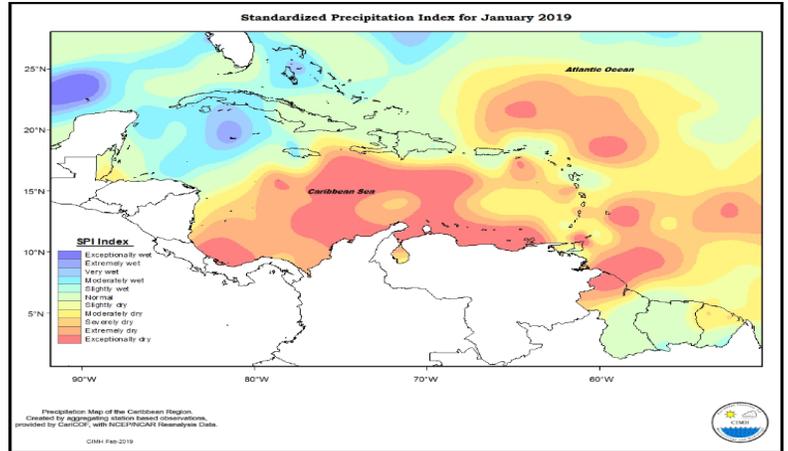
Apart from the northwest parts of the basin and small areas in the southern Guiana's, the Caribbean would have experienced normal to below normal rainfall. Trinidad ranged from normal in the southwest to exceptionally dry in the northeast; Tobago moderate to exceptionally dry from east to west; Grenada slightly dry; Barbados severe to exceptionally dry; St. Vincent severely dry; St. Lucia moderate to severely dry; Martinique and St. Kitts moderately dry; Dominica normal to severely dry; Antigua slight to moderately dry; Guadeloupe, St. Maarten, Anguilla and St. Thomas normal; and St. Croix severe to extremely dry. The Guiana's ranged from exceptionally dry in northern Guyana to slightly wet in southern Guyana/Suriname border and southeastern French Guiana, with northern French Guiana slight to moderately dry. Both Aruba and Curacao were exceptionally dry. Puerto Rico was normal to moderately dry from south to north, while Hispaniola was predominantly normal, but with the southwest Haiti being slight to severely dry, and portions of eastern Dominican Republic being slightly wet. Jamaica ranged from moderately wet in the west to moderately dry in the east, while Grand Cayman was extremely wet. Conditions in Cuba ranged from normal in the east to moderately wet in western areas; while northern Bahamas was slight to very wet. Belize ranged from moderately dry in the south to normal in the north.

Latest News

Belize faced with a possibility of drought, Read More; <https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2019/02/08/is-belize-facing-a-possible-drought/>

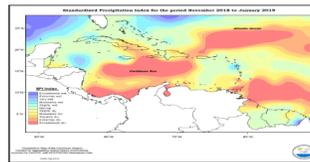
Antigua drought expected to re-intensify; read more, <https://268weather.wordpress.com/2019/01/30/>

Barbados could be facing short-term drought for the next three months; read more, <http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/237947/>

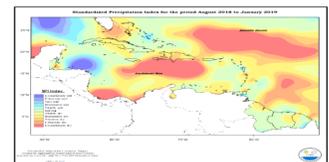


November-December-January

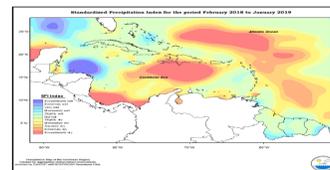
For the three month period, apart from Guadeloupe that ranged from normal to very wet and Dominica from slight to moderately wet, the islands of the eastern Caribbean experienced normal to below normal rainfall. Trinidad was moderately dry in the south to exceptionally dry in the north; Tobago extreme to exceptionally dry; Grenada slightly dry; Barbados slight to severely dry from northwest to southeast; St. Vincent moderate to extremely dry; St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Maarten and St. Thomas normal; Martinique normal to moderately dry; and St. Kitts and St. Croix normal to slightly dry. Conditions in the Guiana's ranged from exceptionally dry in northern Guyana to exceptionally wet in southeastern parts of French Guiana. Aruba was moderately dry and Curacao severely dry. Conditions in Puerto Rico ranged from severely dry in the northwest to normal in the southeast, but Hispaniola ranged from exceptionally dry in southwest Haiti to extremely dry in eastern Dominican republic. Jamaica was moderately wet in the west to moderately dry in the east, while Grand Cayman was normal. Western Cuba was normal to moderately wet and the east was slight to extremely dry; but northern Bahamas was normal to slightly wet. Belize ranged from normal in the north to moderately dry in the southeast.



NOV 2018- JAN 2018
SPI 3 MONTHS



AUG 2018- JAN 2018
SPI 6 MONTHS



FEB 2018- JAN 2018
SPI 12 MONTHS

The Caribbean Drought & Precipitation Monitoring Network

The Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network is led by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), the World Meteorological Organization's Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for the Caribbean. The Network was launched in January 2009 under the Caribbean Water Initiative ([CARWIN](#)) to support equitable and sustainable Integrated Water Resources Management.

The concept was born out of the need to mitigate and respond to the creeping phenomenon, drought. Drought and the general precipitation status is monitored at the regional scale. Efforts are being made to enhance drought monitoring at the national level.

The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF)

The CariCOF brings together climate experts and meteorological services in the Caribbean region on an operational basis to produce a monthly climate outlook. CariCOF interacts with sectoral users to assess the likely implications of the outlooks on the most pertinent socio-economic sectors. The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), in its role as WMO Regional Climate Centre, coordinates the CariCOF process. [Read more.....](#)

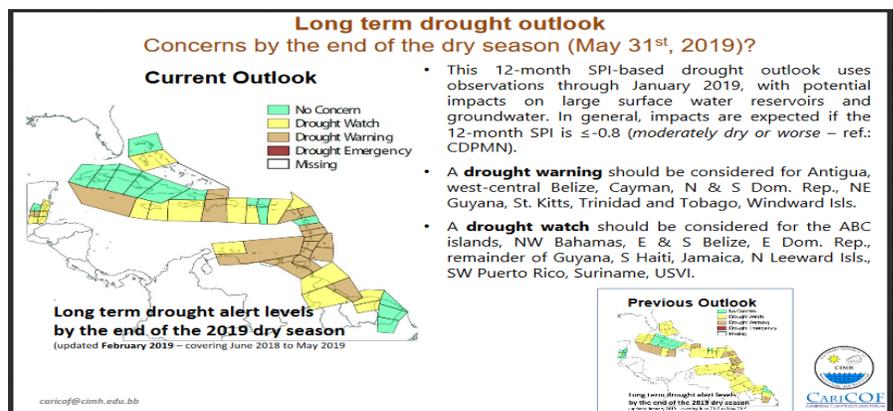
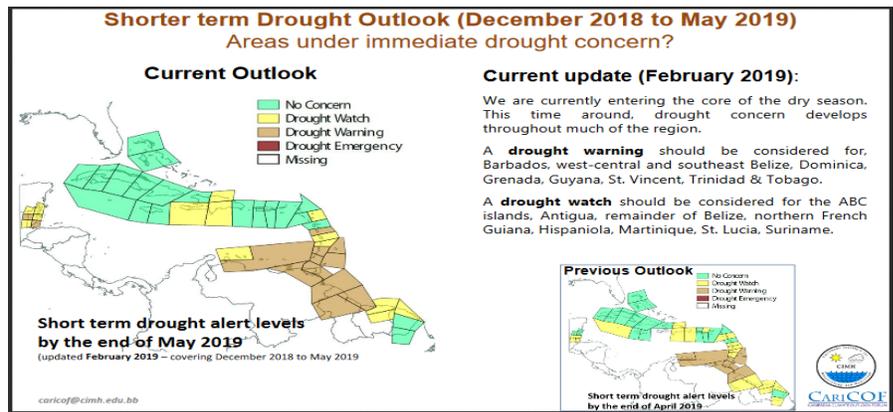
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Website: [CDPMN Drought Monitor](#)

Drought Outlook for the End of May CariCOF's Drought Alert Map



Current Drought Situation

- Current drought situation (up to the end of January 2019):**
 - Barbados, parts of Belize, much of Hispaniola, much of the Leeward Isls, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Tobago have seen long term drought developing.
 - Shorter term drought is seen in the ABC Isls, northern Barbados, south-eastern Cuba, Much of Hispaniola, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Shorter term drought situation (by end of May 2019):**
 - Shorter term drought is evolving in Barbados, west-central and southeast Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago.
 - Shorter term drought might possibly develop in the ABC Islands, Antigua, remainder of Belize, northern French Guiana, Hispaniola, Martinique, St. Lucia, Suriname.
- Long term drought situation (by end of May 2019):**
 - A weak El Nino is expected to contribute to reduced rainfall up until May.
 - Long term drought is evolving in Antigua, west-central Belize, Cayman, N and S Dom. Rep., NE Guyana, St. Kitts, Trinidad and Tobago, Windward Isls.
 - Long term drought might possibly develop in the ABC islands, NW Bahamas, E and S Belize, E Dom. Rep., remainder of Guyana, S Haiti, Jamaica, N Leeward Isls, SW Puerto Rico, Suriname, USVI.

We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring drought and look for our monthly updates.

Drought outlook available for download [here](#)